Recent Pakistan visit

1841. SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:
SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recent Pakistan tour included visit to 'Takshshila';

(b) whether it is a fact that the age old cultural unity was recalled rather than political ties of the States; and

(c) whether it is planned to utilize the cultural unity to resolve the differences within the country?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Yes. During his visit to Taxila on January 14, 2007, EAM said that India and Pakistan share a common heritage and culture which can bring the two countries together to resolve their bilateral issues. Promoting people-to-people contact and cooperating in area such as art, culture, tourism and sports is part of Government's policy to improve bilateral relations with Pakistan.

Demarcation of sea-zone

†1842. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting between the Indian and Pakistani experts of water, was held in December, 2006 in order to give final touches to the modalities of joint survey of Sir Creek area with a view to demarcate the sea-zone;

(b) if so, the results of this meetings;

(c) whether it is a also a fact that Pakistan had started the dispute regarding 12 miles long belt of this area 22 years ago; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not resolving this dispute during the last 22 years and the policy of Government of India regarding this area?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.